

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR
1941

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PREFACE

In accordance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Health, this annual report is again issued in summarised and condensed form.

From the statistical point of view the report loses much of its value owing to the fact that there is no satisfactory information as to the population of the Borough. The last Census was taken in 1931—over ten years ago; and the Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1941 can at best be conjectural. The birth rate and death rate given in this report, being based on this estimate, have no reliable significance.

Much of the work of the department, especially that concerned with hospital administration, has been carried on under very difficult conditions. The war has not only brought much additional medical work—to take one example, the examination, re-examination, and medical care of evacuated children and expectant mothers. It has also put innumerable obstacles in the way of carrying out the normal duties of peace-time, which are increased rather than diminished by war conditions. Staff problems in a department the whole-time personnel of which numbers over 730 are never far to seek.

It is some satisfaction to be able to record that, taking all the circumstances into consideration, the state of the public health can be regarded as good. Especial attention has been given to the welfare of the children, with encouraging results; and it is hoped that the care of this most important section of the community will suffer no interference during the coming year, but that if possible more rather than less will be done.

The deep interest taken by members of the various Committees concerned, the "personal touch" which counts for so much, the unhesitating and vigorous support given to all measures for promoting the physical welfare of the citizens of Birkenhead—all these are recorded with gratitude. And no praise would be too high for the devotion shown by the members of the staff—medical, nursing, and all other sections—who have carried on cheerfully under the double handicap of, on the one hand, greatly increased work and worry, and on the other, of curtailment of the leisure necessary for the maintenance of fitness.

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POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

POPULATION

Population.—The population of the Borough, as recorded at the time of the 1931 census was 147,803.

The Registrar-General has estimated the population of the Borough as at mid-year 1941 as 119,940.

BIRTHS

Births registered during 1941, and birth rate.—During the year 2,220 live births belonging to the Borough were *registered*.

The live birth rate for 1941 was 18.5.

Birth rate in recent years.—The birth rates since 1932 are as follows:—

1932	17.7 per 1,000
1933	16.4 „
1934	16.8 „
1935	17.0 „
1936	16.4 „
1937	16.3 „
1938	17.0 „
1939	16.8 „
1940	18.7 „
1941	18.5 „

Still births.—In addition to live births, 96 still births belonging to Birkenhead were registered, in accordance with Section 7 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926. This is equivalent to a still birth rate of 0.80.

Comparison of birth rate with rates for country generally:—

	Per 1,000 of population	
	Live births	Still births
England and Wales	14.2	0.51
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	14.7	0.58
148 smaller towns (estimated resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at census, 1931)	16.4	0.60
London Administrative County	8.9	0.33
Birkenhead	18.5	0.80

Sex-distribution of births.—Of the 2,220 live births, 1,163 were males and 1,057 females; a proportion of 1,000 : 909.

Legitimacy.—Of the 2,220 live births registered 121 were illegitimate, a percentage of 5.45.

Population, births and deaths

Registration of stillbirths.—The 109 stillbirths registered were classified as follows:—

Legitimate—Males	42
Females	54
Illegitimate—Males	5
Females	8
	<hr/>
	109
	<hr/>

The stillbirth rate was 41 per 1,000 total births.

Births notified during 1941.—During the year, 1,948 births were notified in the Borough under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Of these, 90 were stillbirths, leaving a total of 1,858 live births. This total includes births which occurred in the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital, the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital, and the Birkenhead General Hospital, many of which were transferable to other areas.

The following is an analysis of the above births:—

Births in Public Institutions:—		
Birkenhead Maternity Hospital...	248	(17 stillbirths)
Birkenhead Municipal Hospital...	455	(28 ,,)
Birkenhead General Hospital ...	3	(— ,,)
Births in Nursing Homes	69	(— ,,)
Other births:—		
Notified by doctors.....	2	(— ,,)
Notified by midwives	1081	(45 ,,)
Notified by parents	—	(— ,,)
	<hr/>	
	1858	(90 stillbirths)
	<hr/>	

Un-notified births.—The Registrars reported 63 cases of un-notified births; 22 by both certified midwives and doctors, 15 by the Maternity Hospital staff, and 2 by the Municipal Hospital staff.

DEATHS

Death-rate.—2,275 deaths occurred during the year; the total figure includes 183 deaths of Birkenhead residents which occurred outside the Borough, but excludes 282 deaths of non-residents which occurred in the area. This gives a death-rate of 18.9 per 1,000.

Deaths in recent years.—The death-rates since 1932 are as follows:

1932	11.6 per 1,000
1933	13.5 ,,
1934	12.0 ,,
1935	12.5 ,,
1936	12.6 ,,
1937	13.0 ,,
1938	12.1 ,,
1939	12.9 ,,
1940	16.1 ,,
1941	18.9 ,,

Sex-distribution of deaths.—Of the total deaths, 1,247 were males and 1,028 females, a proportion of 1,213 : 1,000.

Uncertified deaths.—In 1941 there was 1 uncertified death belonging to the area.

Coroners' inquests.—Coroners' inquests were held regarding 110 deaths—that is, in 4.8 per cent. of the total deaths during the year.

The Coroners' (Amendment) Act, 1926.—This Act came into force on 1st May, 1927. During the year 83 deaths (3.6 per cent. of the total deaths during the year) were registered without the Coroner holding an inquest.

Infantile mortality.—There were 218 deaths of infants under 1 year old. This corresponds to an infantile mortality rate of 102 per 1,000 births.

There were 23 deaths in illegitimate infants under 1 year old; giving an illegitimate mortality rate of 194 per 1,000.

The infant mortality rates for each year since 1932 are given below :

1932	71
1933	99
1934	60
1935	67
1936	63
1937	77
1938	75
1939	58
1940	80
1941	102

The main causes of infant deaths during the past two years are shown below:—

	No. in 1940	No. in 1941
(a) Pneumonia (all forms)	37	29
Bronchitis	3	9
Whooping cough	1	12
Measles	10	—
Diarrhœa and enteritis	43	44
(b) Premature birth	40	47
(c) All other causes	64	77
	—	—
	198	218
	—	—

Deaths from tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was responsible for 6.4 per cent. of all the deaths recorded in the Borough in 1941. The deaths from the disease were as follows:—

Deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs	129
Deaths from other forms of tuberculosis	17
	—
	146
	—

This gives a tuberculosis death-rate of 1.2 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the 129 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis during 1941, 115 occurred in persons between 15 and 65 years old—that is, of a wage-earning age.

Deaths from certain epidemic diseases.—The seven “ principal epidemic diseases ” caused 91 deaths, as follows :—

Diarrhœa and enteritis (under 2 years)	50
Whooping cough	16
Measles	1
Scarlet fever	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	23
Fever (enteric, typhus, and simple continued)...	1
Smallpox	—

This corresponds to a death-rate from all these diseases of 0.7 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths from other notifiable infectious diseases.—Pneumonia caused, in its various forms, 93 deaths; cerebro-spinal fever, 13; encephalitis lethargica, 3.

WATER SUPPLY, FOOD, AND DRUGS

WATER SUPPLY

During the year, 123 samples of water from the Alwen and other supplies were bacteriologically examined in the Laboratory of the department. In addition, 203 tests for enteric have been carried out.

MILK SUPPLY

46 samples of milk from farms, etc., outside the Borough were taken by the Veterinary Officer during the year and submitted for biological examination at the Municipal Laboratory. 2 of these (approximately 5%) were found to contain living tubercle bacilli. Appropriate action was taken.

In additon, 10 cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, and 15 cows suffering from mastitis were caused to be removed and treated.

The Veterinary Officer paid quarterly visits to the 7 herds in the Borough which are accredited, and made 650 clinical examinations of dairy cattle.

172 samples of milk were examined bacteriologically at the Municipal Laboratory during the year. 168 of these samples were satisfactory, and 4 unsatisfactory. Suitable action was taken with regard to the unsatisfactory samples.

OTHER FOODS: DRUGS

During the year, 241,464 animals were slaughtered in the area, a decrease of 120,446 on the preceding year. This was due to the abnormal number of sheep slaughtered in the previous year.

The total amount of meat condemned during the year was 639 tons.

In the inspection of shops, etc., foodstuffs amounting to 83,546 lbs., 1,549 tins of meat, fish, milk, fruit, etc., 817 dozen eggs were found to be unfit for human consumption, and also condemned.

During 1941, 503 samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Acts. Of these, 252 were formal and 251 informal, 250 were samples of milk.

Of the total number of samples analysed, 27 were reported adulterated, and proceedings were taken in respect of 9 of these. Penalties were inflicted in 8 cases.

TUBERCULOSIS

No changes of any importance occurred during the year in the scheme for the treatment of tuberculosis.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was 248, made up as follows:—

	Males		Females		Total
	Up to 15 years of age	15 years of age and over	Up to 15 years of age	15 years of age and over	
Pulmonary	5	117	5	74	201
Other forms	11	7	18	11	47
Total.....	16	124	23	85	248

The number of new cases (248) was somewhat greater than in 1940 (224)—the increase being fairly evenly distributed as regards age and sex.

The number of cases on the Notification Register at the end of the year was 1,212. Of these, 792 (452 males and 340 females) were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis and 420 (196 males and 224 females) were suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis.

The number of cases on the Clinic Register at the end of the year was 887. Of these, 577 (317 males and 260 females) were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and 310 (151 males and 159 females) were suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis.

VENEREAL DISEASES

During the year, 617 persons were dealt with at the General Hospital Clinic (481 males and 136 females), and 21 children (13 males and 8 females) were dealt with at the Hamilton Square Clinic.

The total number of attendances made at the General Hospital Clinic was 5,159 and at the Hamilton Square Clinic 221.

The total number of new cases seen at the General Hospital Clinic was 352 (291 males and 61 females), as compared with 367 (312 males and 55 females) in 1940.

10 patients (4 males and 6 females) received inpatient treatment, the aggregate number of inpatient days being 198.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES**INFECTIOUS DISEASES WHICH ARE NOTIFIABLE**

Below is a table showing the number of cases of infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1941 showing ages :—

Disease	and 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. up	Total
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	5	4	15	14	36	15	3	4	4	1	—	101
Diphtheria and membra- nous croup	5	13	23	37	33	94	50	38	41	7	1	1	343
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	9	22	15	52
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever	—	—	2	4	3	10	15	20	33	8	14	—	109
Continued fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	9	8	7	6	2	16	8	11	21	6	7	—	101
Encephalitis lethargica (acute)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio-encephalitis (acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (acute) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5
Ophthalmia neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	17	29	21	11	6	10	8	10	36	24	40	18	230
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
* Measles	20	28	41	32	32	69	16	11	11	1	—	—	261
* Whooping cough	87	74	90	88	60	142	10	—	1	—	1	—	553
Totals	141	157	188	193	151	378	122	95	159	59	86	34	1763

* Made notifiable under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, dated October 23rd, 1939.

The number of patients treated in the Infectious Diseases Hospital during the year was as follows:—

In hospital at beginning of year	52
Admitted to hospital during year	632
	<hr/> 684
Discharged from hospital during year	614
Number of deaths in hospital, during year	36
	<hr/> 650
Remaining in hospital at end of year	<hr/> 34

Other infectious diseases

An analysis of the cases dealt with during the year is given below:

Patients sent in as suffering from		In hospital at beginning of year	Admitted during year	Died during year	Discharged during year	Remaining in hospital at end of year
Scarlet fever	M.	4	35	...	31	8
	F.	...	41	..	35	6
Diphtheria.....	M.	19	164	12	164	7
	F.	24	172	10	175	11
Enteric fever	M.	...	26	..	26	...
	F.	1	68	2	67	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	M.	2	53	6	48	1
	F.	1	39	3	37	...
Erysipelas	M.	...	1	...	1	..
	F.	...	2	...	2	...
Measles	M.	1	5	...	6	...
	F.	.	5	...	5	...
Other diseases	M.	...	15	2	13	..
	F.	...	6	1	4	1
Totals		52	632	36	614	34

Of the 94 cases notified as enteric fever admitted into the Infectious Diseases Hospital, the diagnosis was confirmed in 84 cases, 1 of which subsequently died. The final diagnosis in the remaining 10 cases was 1 bronchial pneumonia, 2 pyrexia, 2 gastric enteritis, 1 cardiac disease, 1 nephritis, 2 undiagnosed, 1 cerebrospinal fever (patient subsequently died).

A full investigation into these cases was made, but no common point of infection was discovered.

MUNICIPAL LABORATORY

The provision of a technician at both the Municipal Hospital and the Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital has proved invaluable. The increase in general efficiency more than offsets the greater time devoted to these Hospital services.

In addition, a large amount of work is carried out on the spot which does not figure in the Laboratory report, but which is of great assistance to the resident staffs.

Much time has been put in on the Merseyside Blood Transfusion service, some hundreds of bottles of blood having been dealt with.

During the year various suspected foodstuffs were investigated, with negative results.

Typhoid and paratyphoid fever were present in Birkenhead and the surrounding area during the year, and many investigations of milk and other foods, water, etc., were carried out. In this connection, a test for the presence of the enterica group has been added to the regular routine in the normal examination of the water supply of the Borough. Various auxiliary water supplies have also been tested out from time to time.

The Laboratory was damaged by blast in March, 1941, but fortunately all apparatus escaped injury.

Despite wartime conditions, two fresh tests have been added to those previously carried out in the laboratory. These are the Friedmann test for pregnancy, and the phosphatase test for pasteurised milk.

The scope of the Laboratory continues to increase, and work is now done regularly for the County Borough of Wallasey and the Borough of Bebington. A helping hand was also extended to the Clatterbridge Fever Hospital in a time of stress, during the early autumn.

The total number of examinations carried out at the Laboratory during the year was 20,620.

BIRKENHEAD MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL

There were no changes in the administrative arrangements during the year.

The whole-time Medical Staff of the Hospital consisted of :—

The Medical Superintendent
Deputy Medical Superintendent
Senior Resident Medical Officer
Four Resident Medical Officers.

In addition the part-time services of

A Radiologist
A Physician
An Aurist and Laryngologist
A Psychiatrist
An Orthopaedic Surgeon
An Obstetrician and Gynæcologist
An Ophthalmic Surgeon, and
A Dental Surgeon

were retained.

The hospital is recognised as a training school for the General Nursing Council and as a Part 1 training school for the diploma of the Central Midwives Board. During the past year many members of the nursing staff have passed out from the hospital as fully trained nurses and midwives and many nurses who have been trained at this hospital in the past are now serving with the Queen Alexandra Nursing Services attached to H.M. Forces.

During the past year the number of medical, surgical and obstetrical cases admitted showed a slight diminution on the previous year. This was mainly due to the evacuation of civil population and to the severe air raids experienced over the Borough. The hospital is classified under the Ministry of Health's Scheme as a Class 1 Casualty Clearing Hospital.

During the year 1941, several hundred air raid casualties were admitted to the wards; many of these were severely injured and required a great deal of care and attention. As the result of the heavy raids experienced the work on the surgical, administrative and clerical sides of the hospital has been very heavy indeed. In order to preserve vacant accommodation for casualties periodic evacuation of convalescent sick has taken place to outlying hospitals in the district.

The hospital has now been completely equipped for the treatment of all types of casualties, and invaluable experience has been gained during the past year both from the surgical and the administrative side. In addition to an Emergency Operating Theatre, a resuscitation unit for casualties requiring treatment for shock has been set up; a continuous oxygen bank has been installed and other necessary equipment purchased. Both operating theatres and many of the ground floor wards have been protected against blast and the lofts of the upper wards protected against fire.

Anticipating the possible use of gas warfare a new Decontamination building has been set up in the grounds to decontaminate seriously injured cases which may be admitted to the hospital in the near future.

On account of the fact that over 100 beds require to be reserved for the admission of casualties it is not surprising that accommodation has been difficult to find for all classes of cases, particularly for chronic cases which show an increase on previous years. During the winter months it became necessary to restrict the admission of such cases, but at no time have any acute surgical, medical or obstetrical cases been refused admission. It is imperative that alternative accommodation should be sought in the Borough for the treatment of senile and chronic sick in order to relieve the strain on the present accommodation available at the hospital. During the past winter the wards allocated to chronic cases have been extremely congested and a similar state of affairs has existed in the Infirm Wards of the Institution.

During the past year the hospital buildings did not escape unscathed. In the raid of March 12/13th no fewer than six high explosive bombs were dropped within the grounds; two of these struck one block at the same time and destroyed two wards completely. Fortunately the loss of life was negligible. The loss of this accommodation, however, is a serious one and so far has not been made good.

The highest praise is due to members of the hospital staffs, both voluntary and permanent for their work during the period when raids were heavy in the town. Very valuable assistance was rendered by stretcher bearers from the British Red Cross Society, and indeed it would have been impossible to empty ambulances as quickly as necessary without their assistance. Gifts of clothing and other comforts were received from various war charity organisations and these were appreciated by patients injured during raids.

Many of the male members of the staff have been called up for military service and these have required to be replaced by temporary female assistants.

The following table shows the number of admissions, births; discharges and deaths during the year, 1941 :—

	Men	Women	Children	Total
In Hospital on 31st December, 1940	98	98	62	258
Admissions :				
From own homes and other Hospitals ...	1171	1763	708	3642
Service cases admitted	49	4	—	53
From Birkenhead Institution	21	14	7	42
Eastham House	4	4	—	8
Births in Hospital	—	—	465	465
Air raid casualties	104	81	15	200
Total cases dealt with	1349	1866	1195	4410

*Birkenhead municipal hospital***Discharges :**

To own homes or other Hospitals	908	1580	1073	3561
Service cases discharged	36	2	—	38
To Birkenhead Institution	54	53	8	115
Deaths in Hospital	350	209	97	656
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Total discharges and deaths	1348	1844	1178	4370
<hr/>				
Cases in Hospital on 31st December, 1941	114	118	61	293
Service cases on 31st December, 1941	4	1	—	5
<hr/>				
Total cases in Hospital on 31st Dec., 1941	118	119	61	298

The total number of surgical operations carried out during the year was as follows:—

Operations performed under general, spinal and local anaesthetics	927
Operations for tonsils and adenoids—	
School Medical service	6
Others	5
	— 11
Eye operations	16
Nasal operations	3
Dental operations	4

Below is a summary of the maternity cases dealt with at the Hospital during 1941 :—

Total No. of women dealt with	Married	Single	Total No. of children dealt with	Live births	Still births
492	456	36	495	465	30

A summary of the work carried out at the X-Ray Department during 1941 is set out below :—

In-patients

X-Ray examinations made of:—

Stomach	189
Kidney	92
Chest	1200
Gall bladder	44
General	807
	— 2332
X-Ray films used	4798
Screenings	1476
Electrocardiographic cases	50

Out-patients

Tuberculosis cases	631	
Casualties	42	
Orthopaedic cases	30	
Ear, nose and throat cases	1	
Continuation cases	135	
Obstetric cases	20	
Other cases	60	
	—	919
Air raid casualties (in and out-patients)		200

146 patients received ophthalmic examinations and treatment during the year; these patients made 496 attendances. Spectacles were prescribed for 58 of these patients. 16 operations were performed.

The following specimens were sent to the Municipal Laboratory during the year:—

Bacteriological specimens	4885
Biochemical specimens	614
Pathological specimens	1016

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

There were no new developments in connection with the administrative arrangements during the year.

The total number of cases under the care of the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee at the end of the year was 560. Of these 105 were in Institutions placed by the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee, 11 were in Institutions placed by parents, etc., 4 were in State Institutions placed by the Board of Control; 26 cases under home supervision were awaiting Institutional treatment; 64 cases were under domiciliary treatment by the Public Assistance Committee; 345 cases (including 314 ex-special school cases) were under home supervision; 5 cases were under official guardianship.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND

No changes were made in the administrative arrangements during the year.

The total number of blind persons on the Register at the end of the year was 277—153 males and 124 females.

The number of blind evacuees at the end of the year was 15.

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

This work again suffered during 1941 owing to the employment of Inspectors on Civil Defence work.

Two district Inspectors were engaged full-time during part of the year on this work and other inspectors were engaged for part-time work.

One district Inspector was called up during the year for National Service, and was not replaced. Two district Inspectors have been appointed to other towns and have not been replaced.

During the year 12 new houses were erected in the Borough. No houses were erected during the year which did not comply with the building bye-laws.

The total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts during the year was 8,278. 19,651 inspections were made for this purpose.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

There were no important developments in this service during the year.

76 midwives gave notice of their intention to practise in the Borough.

The following is a summary of the work of the salaried midwives on the staff of the department:—

Number of bookings	837
Number of births	673
Number of visits to patients	16615

Under the terms of the agreement with the Maternity Hospital for domiciliary midwifery, the Hospital midwife carried out work as follows:—

Number of bookings	35
Number of births	36
Number of visits to patients	569

In connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, visits were paid by the Health Nurses as follows:—

To children under 1 year	4847
To children between 1 year & 5 years	8973
To expectant mothers	101
To mothers and children (miscellaneous matters)	3186

At the infant welfare clinics 1,410 first visits and 13,489 revisits were made by children under 5 years of age. Of these 1,342 (who made 6,909 revisits) were examined by an assistant medical officer.

Supplies of free milk were given to:—

182 infants

At the toddlers' clinics 283 first visits and 1,729 revisits were made.

In regard to the antenatal clinics, sessions were held on 155 occasions, the number of patients dealt with 995; the total number of attendances being 2,902.

A small amount of postnatal work was carried out at the antenatal clinics. 15 mothers paid 24 visits.

At the end of the year the names of 15 children were entered on the Register in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

3 cases of Ophthalmic Neonatorum were notified during the year and were treated at home. Vision was unimpaired in all cases.

The Registrar-General's annual statement of causes of death includes 7 deaths connected with pregnancy and childbirth.

This gives a maternal mortality rate of 3.14 per 1,000 births (living and still), as compared with a rate of 2.23 for the whole country.

The causes of the deaths were as follows:—

Puerperal sepsis	2
Other puerperal conditions	5

217 expectant mothers were evacuated from the Borough during the year.

CIVIL DEFENCE MEDICAL SERVICE

No praise is too high for the splendid work performed during the early part of the year, when Birkenhead was so heavily bombarded, by all members of the Civil Defence Medical Service.

For acts of gallantry the following awards were made :—

Mr. W. J. Darch, First Aid Party Depot Superintendent—George Medal.

Mrs. V. Adamson, First Aid Party Car Driver—British Empire Medal.

Miss G. I. Hawkes, First Aid Post Superintendent—British Empire Medal.

Mr. J. H. Mann, First Aid Party Depot Superintendent—British Empire Medal.

The following were also commended for acts of gallantry:—

Mr. J. W. Andrews	Miss S. Boyle
Mr. G. Fogg	Mr. E. Hudson

Mr. A. N. Yapp

Colonel T. F. Ritchie, D.S.O., Civil Defence Medical Officer, resigned during the year owing to ill-health. He was succeeded by Capt. S. R. Mackay (R.A.M.C. Ret.) who commenced duty on 1st September, 1941, and terminated duty on 31st December, 1941.

Miss K. M. Worrall, Administrative Officer, resigned during the year to take up an appointment with the Ministry of Health. Mrs. G. Walton, Equipment Officer, was appointed as Staff Officer, First Aid Posts, and Mr. J. H. Mann, a First Aid Party Depot Superintendent, was appointed Staff Officer, First Aid Party Depots.

The personnel at the end of the year consisted of the following :—

First Aid Party and Ambulance Depots

Paid

Depot Superintendents	9	
First Aid Party Leaders	25	
Other members of First Aid Parties (including 37 Car Drivers—28 males and 9 females—9 of the male drivers provide their own cars)	86	
	<hr/>	120
Drivers of cars for sitting cases (females who provide their own cars)	7	
Ambulance Drivers (females)	35	
Ambulance Attendants (females)	35	
	<hr/>	77
		<hr/>
Carried forward ...		197

	Brought forward ...	197
Unpaid		
Members of First Aid Parties (including 7 males Car Drivers who provide their own cars)	160	
Drivers of cars for sitting cases (females who provide their own cars)	1	
Ambulance Drivers	9	
Ambulance Attendants	20	
	<hr/>	190
	Total ...	<hr/> 387

First Aid Posts

Paid		
Post Superintendents	8	
Trained Nurses	8	
First Aid Attendants (females)	101	
Stretcher bearers (males)	35	
	<hr/>	152
Unpaid		
First Aid Attendants	94	
Stretcher bearers	34	
	<hr/>	128
	Total ...	<hr/> 280

Mobile Unit

Paid		
Trained Nurse	1	
First Aid Attendants	6	
Driver (male)	1	
	<hr/>	8
Unpaid		
First Aid Attendants	6	
Driver (male)	1	
	<hr/>	7
	Total ...	<hr/> 15

HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Staff.

The Medical Staff engaged in carrying out School Medical Service duties at the end of 1941 consisted of Dr. Williams, Dr. Blackstock, Dr. Murray, Dr. Esmé Grant and Dr. Marsh; the last named being engaged in a part-time capacity. Dr. Esmé Grant commenced duty on the 17th March, 1941, replacing Dr. Harper who was called up for military service at the end of the previous year.

A number of changes on the Dental Staff have taken place during the year. Mr. M. Smith was called up for military service in February and Miss E. M. Warlow, having resigned, terminated her duties in December. Neither of these vacancies had been filled by the end of the year. Mr. A. C. Capper was seconded to Merionethshire from May to October, and to Montgomeryshire from October to the end of the year, for work connected with the dental inspection and treatment of Birkenhead children in these counties.

GENERAL

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year, approximately 5,000 parents have made written requests for their children to be immunised against diphtheria. A number of parents later, however, withdrew their requests, or did not present the children for treatment after appointments had been made.

The immunisation was carried out in schools and at clinics, 56 sessions being occupied; of these, 18 were conducted by the Assistant School Medical Officers and 38 by general practitioners employed for the purpose.

A total of 3,495 school children received the full course of two immunising injections. The treatment of a further 688 children, who had received one injection, had not been completed by the end of the year.

Treatment of Scabies.

During the winter of 1940 and the spring of 1941 many people lived and slept under over-crowded conditions owing to the fear of aerial attack. As might be expected such circumstances favoured the increase in the number of cases of contagious skin diseases; the chief of these being scabies. (This increased prevalence of scabies was noted in large towns throughout the country.)

At the onset of the scabies epidemic, efforts were made to instruct parents to treat themselves and their families at home. Pamphlets and ointment were given on request. This method proved to be a failure except in those cases where the parents were reliable, intelligent and conscientious.

(It is essential that all members of a family suffering from this disease should be treated at the same time, to prevent re-infection in the home.)

It was next decided to provide "outpatient" treatment at the Education Committee's premises in Gertrude Street, but the number of persons seeking relief from this irritating disease was so great that the need for a larger centre was soon apparent. On the 25th August a temporary treatment centre was opened at the Birkenhead Institution, pending the provision of more commodious premises.

The difficult task of deciding upon the best and speediest technique for the treatment of scabies patients has been in the hands of Dr. Blackstock, who has given a great deal of time and thought to the problem, and has evolved methods which are proving extremely satisfactory. This treatment is quick and unfailing if applied before complications are caused by the occurrence of secondary dermatitis, such as arises from neglect or from unskilled methods of treatment.

Miss Beattie, the Nurse in Charge, has been assisted from time to time by other members of the Health Nursing Staff, and also by volunteers from the First Aid Posts in the Borough.

Since the opening of this treatment centre, 314 first visits and 684 re-visits have been made by children of school age. Attendances have been made by other members of their families, altogether 683 first visits and 1,262 re-visits having been recorded during the year.

As was expected, however, the centre is proving too small to deal with the number of cases requiring attention, and consideration has been given to the utilisation of the Civil Defence decontamination centre at Livingstone Street for the purpose. At this centre shower baths are already installed, and it will be possible to deal with a much larger number of cases. It is hoped that these new premises will be available early in 1942.

It is desirable that the public should seek skilled advice and *modern* treatment at the earliest possible moment; until a larger number of sufferers receive adequate attention the number of cases will not diminish and the disease will remain endemic in all crowded industrial areas.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Medical inspection prior to evacuation.

In September 1939, 9,337 school children were evacuated to the Reception Counties under the Government Evacuation Scheme. Many children were brought back by parents before the end of the year, whilst others returned to Birkenhead during the early part of 1940.

During the winter of 1940, when enemy air activity was at its height, a further 913 children left the Borough; but at the end of 1940 only some 5,000 Birkenhead children were remaining in the Reception Areas.

At the beginning of 1941 the "Trickle" Evacuation Scheme was introduced. Under this scheme, 1,972 children left Birkenhead for the Welsh Counties.

Health of school children

Approximately 3,000 of the 12,222 children who had been evacuated under the Government Scheme during 1939, 1940 and 1941 were remaining in the Reception Areas at the end of 1941.

All children who were registered for evacuation received thorough medical examinations; and last minute inspections, (to ensure that all children were clean and free from infectious disease), were carried out immediately prior to evacuation. At these inspections the general standard of cleanliness was shown to be high; the children's clothing and bodies were clean; none were verminous and few were found by the nurses to have nits.

Details of the examinations are set out below :—

No. of children classified as suitable for billets...	2,784
No. of children classified as suitable for hostels...	504
No. of children temporarily excluded	355
No. of children not suitable	4
Total	3,647

Medical and Dental Inspections of Evacuees.

At the request of the County Medical Officers of Montgomeryshire and Merionethshire, extra medical assistance was given during the year by members of the staff of the department for the dental inspection and treatment and routine medical inspection of Birkenhead children in these counties, and for immunisation against diphtheria.

In Montgomeryshire, after the completion of twelve sessions the County Medical Officer stated that further assistance was unnecessary.

In Merionethshire, Dr. Williams spent 37 sessions for the purpose of medical inspection and 29 sessions for immunisation against diphtheria of children for whom parental consent had been received.

Children found to be suffering from minor defects at the time of the inspections were referred to the County Medical Officers for treatment.

Details of the work carried out are given hereunder :—

a) Medical Inspection.**In Merionethshire.**

No. of children examined	1,165
No. of children found defective	229
No. of children found to have pediculosis—	
Nits only	141
Vermin	—

In Montgomeryshire.

No. of children examined	330
No. of children found defective	42
No. of children found to have pediculosis—	
Nits only	15
Vermin	—

(b) **Immunisation against Diphtheria in Merionethshire.**

No. of children who received one injection	35
No. of children who received two injections	813

(c) **Dental Inspection.**
In Merionethshire.

No. of children inspected	1366
No. of children selected for treatment	872
No. of treatments completed	672
Total number of extractions ...	1069
Total number of fillings	271

In Montgomeryshire.

No. of children inspected	1491
No. of children selected for treatment	893
No. of treatments completed	561
Total number of extractions ...	986
Total number of fillings	155

Cases of Diphtheria in Corwen.

A number of cases of diphtheria amongst Birkenhead children in the Corwen area were notified during April and May; three of these proved fatal. It must be recorded that none of these children had received the benefit of immunisation against the disease, in spite of the repeated appeals for parental consent which had been made from time to time, especially to parents of evacuated children.

Measures were taken immediately for a course of protective injections to be given to evacuees in this area. No further outbreak of this disease has occurred.

General.

Dr. Williams reports that the children whom she examined in the Reception Areas appeared to have settled down well in their new homes; the general state of their health was good and the standard of nutrition was high. With regard to clothing and bodily cleanliness they compared favourably with children in Birkenhead.

During the year few complaints have been received either from the parents of evacuees on the one hand, or on the other from householders in the Reception Areas. The co-operation of the Reception Authorities in dealing with the few problems which have arisen has been greatly appreciated; and I am glad to have this opportunity of recording my gratitude for the help which I have constantly received from the Medical Officers of the various Counties in which our children have been billeted, with whom I have had frequent conferences.

*Health of school children***MEDICAL INSPECTION***(see note a)***A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS**Number of Inspections in the Prescribed Groups (*see note b*)—

Entrants	1508
Second age group	659
Third age group	1444
Total	3611

Number of other Routine Inspections (*see note c*)

Fourth age group	1024
Grand Total	4635

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections (<i>see note d</i>).....	2496
In schools	24
In clinics	2472
Number of Re-inspections (<i>see note e</i>)	2682
In schools	1013
In clinics	1669
Total	5178

CHILDREN FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of individual children found at routine medical inspection to require treatment (excluding defects of nutrition, uncleanliness and mental diseases).

Note.—No individual child is counted more than once in any column of this Table; for example, a child suffering from defective vision and from adenoids appears once in Column 2, once in Column 3 and once only in Column 4. Similarly a child suffering from two defects other than defective vision appears once only in Column 3 and once in Column 4.

Group. (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For all other conditions recorded in table on p. 8 (3)	Total. (4)
Entrants	1	201	202
Second Age Group	41	51	89
Third Age Group	110	160	258
Total (Prescribed Groups)	152	412	549
Other Routine Inspections	87	93	164
Grand Total.....	239	505	713

NOTES ON TABLES (page 24)

- (a) The return refers to a complete calendar year.
- (b) This heading relates solely to the routine medical inspection of the three ordinary age groups, *i.e.*, to medical inspection carried out
 - (i) in compliance with Article 17 of the Consolidated Regulations relating to Special Services—Grant Regulations No. 19; which states that “the authority must provide for the medical inspection of all children in Public Elementary Schools as soon as possible in the twelve months following—(a) their first admission to a Public Elementary School and (b) their attaining the age of 8 years and (c) their attaining the age of 12 years.”
 - (ii) on the school premises (or at a place specially sanctioned by the Board);
 - (iii) for the purpose of making a report on each child on the lines of the approved Schedule set out in Circular 582.

(c) Under this heading is recorded *routine* inspections, if any, of children who do not fall under the three prescribed age-groups, *e.g.*, *routine* inspections of a fourth age-group (children who are eligible to leave school at the end of the term in which the inspection takes place) or of other groups of children, as distinct from those who are individually selected on account of some suspected ill-health for “Special” Inspection.

(d) A Special Inspection is a medical inspection by the School Medical Officer himself or by one of the Medical Officers on his staff of a child specially selected or referred for such inspection, *i.e.*, not inspected at a routine medical inspection as defined above. Such children may be selected by the Medical Officer during a visit to the School or may be referred to him by the Teachers, School Nurses, Attendance Officers, Parents, or otherwise. It is immaterial for the purpose of this heading whether the children are inspected at the School or at the Inspection Clinic or elsewhere. If a child happens to come before the School Medical Officer for special inspection during a year in which it falls into one of the routine groups, its routine inspection is entered in Part A of the table on page 7 headed “Medical Inspection” and its special inspection in Part B. The inspection recorded under the heading of special inspections is only the first inspection of the child so referred for a particular defect. If a child who has been specially inspected for one defect is subsequently specially inspected for another defect, such subsequent inspection is recorded as a Special Inspection and not as a Re-inspection.

(e) Under this heading is entered the medical inspections of children who as the result of a routine or special inspection come up later on for subsequent re-inspection, whether at the School or at the Inspection Clinic. The first inspection in every case is entered as a routine or special inspection as the case may be. Every subsequent inspection of the same defect is entered as a re-inspection.

Nothing is included under the head of special inspections or re-inspections except such inspections as are defined above. Attendances for treatment by a Nurse, or for examinations by anyone other than a Doctor on the staff of the School Medical Service, are not recorded as medical inspections. If, however, at any such attendance a child is also examined by one of the Authority's Medical Officers, this is recorded as a special inspection or re-inspection as the case may be, even if treatment is also given; but such attendance is also of course recorded as an attendance for treatment.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

Defect or disease (1)	Routine Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring treatment (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment (3)	Requiring treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (5)
<i>Skin</i>				
(1) Ringworm—Scalp	—	—	4	—
(2) „ — Body	1	—	26	—
(3) Scabies	46	2	515	—
(4) Impetigo	7	—	101	—
(5) Other diseases (non-tuberculous)	26	14	164	—
<i>Eye</i>				
(6) Blepharitis	13	7	38	—
(7) Conjunctivitis	4	—	29	—
(8) Keratitis	—	—	—	—
(9) Corneal opacities	—	—	—	—
(10) Other conditions (excluding defective vision and squint)	11	5	40	—
(11) Defective vision (excluding squint)	240	124	20	—
(12) Squint	30	10	4	—
<i>Ear</i>				
(13) Defective hearing	4	4	3	1
(14) Otitis media	2	—	1	—
(15) Other ear diseases	10	18	104	—
<i>Nose and throat.</i>				
(16) Chronic tonsillitis only	49	94	68	—
(17) Adenoids only	5	15	4	—
(18) Chronic tonsillitis and adenoids	15	7	6	—
(19) Other conditions	21	33	100	—
(20) Enlarged cervical glands (non-tuberculous)	18	62	35	—
(21) Defective speech	1	6	1	—
<i>Heart and circulation</i>				
(22) Heart disease—Organic	3	1	—	—
(23) „ — Functional	30	64	13	—
(24) Anaemia	25	32	15	1
<i>Lungs</i>				
(25) Bronchitis	9	14	4	—
(26) Other non-tuberculous diseases	21	37	23	—
<i>Tuberculosis</i>				
(27) Pulmonary—Definite	—	—	—	—
(28) „ Suspected	3	—	—	—
(29) Non-pulmonary—Glands	1	3	—	—
(30) „ Bones and joints	1	2	—	—
(31) „ Skin	—	—	—	—
(32) „ Other forms	—	1	—	—
<i>Nervous system</i>				
(33) Epilepsy	—	2	2	—
(34) Chorea	—	1	3	—
(35) Other conditions	—	3	1	—
<i>Deformities</i>				
(36) Rickets	—	2	—	—
(37) Spinal curvature	—	3	—	—
(38) Other forms	68	74	14	—
39) Other defects and diseases (excluding Defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases)	109	64	761	1
TOTAL	773	704	2099	3

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS

(see Administrative Memorandum No. 124, dated 31st December, 1934)

Age Groups	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants.....	1508	41	2.72	1298	86.08	167	11.07	2	0.13
Second Age Group ...	659	33	5.00	544	82.55	82	12.45	—	—
Third Age Group ...	1444	131	9.07	1152	79.78	161	11.15	—	—
Other Routine Inspections	1024	146	14.26	779	76.07	99	9.67	—	—
Total.....	4635	351	7.57	3773	81.41	509	10.98	2	0.04

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA

This return is in respect of all exceptional children in the area, and is not confined only to those for whom suitable accommodation is available.

For the purpose of this Table no child is included who has not been examined by the School Medical Officer, by a medical member of the Authority's staff, or by the Tuberculosis Officer.

The table is made up from the list of exceptional children as it stood on the last day of the calendar year.

Children sent by the Authority to day or residential schools outside the area are included in this table; children who are living in residential schools in the area, or attend day schools in the area, but who come from other areas, are not included.

No child is entered under more than one heading in this form

BLIND CHILDREN

A blind child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children." This definition covers some children who are totally, or almost totally, blind and can only be appropriately taught in a school for blind children, and others who have partial sight and can be appropriately taught in a school for partially sighted children. Only the first class is included in this section.

Number at Certified Schools for the Blind 3

PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN

In this section are included only children who, though they cannot read ordinary school books or cannot read them without injury to their eyesight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially sighted.

Health of school children

Children who are able by means of suitable glasses to read the ordinary school books used by children without fatigue or injury to their vision are not included in this table.

Number on register 34

During the year 6 new cases were added to the register.

Below is a classification of the defects from which these partially sighted children suffer :

Myopia	10
Myopic astigmatism	7
Corneal nebulae	2
Hypermatropic astigmatism and nystagmus	2
Congenital cataract	4
Coloboma iris and choroid	3
Optic atrophy	1
Congenital buphthalmos	1
Absence of iris and partial cataract	1
Nystagmus	2
Partial cataract	1
	<hr/>
	34
	<hr/>

DEAF CHILDREN

A deaf child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school." This definition covers some children who are totally, or almost totally, deaf and can only be appropriately taught in a school for deaf children, and others who have partial hearing and can be appropriately taught in a school for partially deaf children. Only the first class is included in this section.

Number at Certified Schools for the Deaf 10

Number at a non-provided Secondary School 1

11

PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN

In this section are included children who can appropriately be taught only in a school for the partially deaf.

Number on register 18

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

Mentally defective children are children who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull or backward, are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools, but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in special schools or mentally defective children.

The following table includes all such children except those who have been notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act in accordance with Article 3 of the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928. Particulars relating to these children are entered in the return of notified children (see following page).

Number on register 89

Claughton Road Council School.—In accordance with the arrangements for ascertainment, examinations of children suspected to be mentally defective were held at various schools and clinics during the year by the Assistant Medical Officers.

The results of these examinations are set out below:

Total number examined—Boys	8	
Girls	6	
	—	14
Number certified as mentally defective—Boys.....	5	
Girls	6	
	—	11*
Number recommended to continue in attendance at ordinary elementary schools—Boys	3	
Girls	—	
	—	3

7 children left school during the year

(a) on reaching the age of 16 years	4
(b) before reaching the age of 16 years	3*

* Granted leave of absence.

Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928.—

Statement of the number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1941, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority.

Total number of children notified 3

Analysis of the above total

Diagnosis	Boys	Girls
1. (i) Children incapable of receiving <i>benefit</i> or <i>further</i> benefit from instruction in a Special School :		
(a) Idiots	—	—
(b) Imbeciles	2	1
(c) Others	—	—
(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children :		
(a) Moral defectives.....	—	—
(b) Others	—	—
2. Feeble-minded children notified on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16	—	—
3. Feeble minded children notified under Article 3, <i>i.e.</i> "special circumstances" cases	—	—
4. Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf.....	—	—
Total.....	2	1

EPILEPTIC CHILDREN

In this part of the table only those children are included who are epileptic within the meaning of the Act, i.e., children who, not being idiots or imbeciles, are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary public elementary schools.

(For practical purposes the Board are of opinion that children who are subject to attacks of major epilepsy in school should be recorded as "severe" cases and excluded from ordinary public elementary schools.)

Number on register 5

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

A.—TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN

Only children diagnosed as tuberculous and requiring treatment for tuberculosis at a sanatorium, a dispensary, or elsewhere are recorded in this category. Children suffering from crippling due to tuberculosis which is regarded as being no longer in need of treatment are recorded as crippled children, provided that the degree of crippling conforms to the description of a crippled child given at the head of Section C below. All other tuberculous children who are regarded as being no longer in need of treatment are recorded as delicate children provided the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

I.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS (Including pleura and intra-thoracic glands)

Number on register 33

II.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS (This category includes tuberculosis of all sites other than those shown in (I) above)

Number on register 224

B.—DELICATE CHILDREN

This section is confined to children (except those included in other groups) whose general health renders it urgently desirable that they should be specially selected for admission to an Open Air School. Such children are included irrespective of the actual provision of Open Air Schools in the area, or of the practicability in present circumstances of sending the children to Residential Schools. Children are not classed as suitable for admission to an Open Air School unless the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

Number on register 8

The impression must not be conveyed that there are only eight children of school age who would benefit from instruction in an Open Air School. There would be no difficulty in selecting hundreds of children who would benefit both physically and mentally from the special environment and special instruction which such a school would provide.

C.—CRIPPLED CHILDREN

This section is confined to children (other than those diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis and in need of treatment for that disease) who are suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life, i.e., children who generally speaking are unable to take part, in any complete sense, in physical exercises or games or such activities of the school curriculum as gardening or forms of handwork usually engaged in by other children, and in whose case the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of such physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

Number on register 13

D.—CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE

This section is confined to children in whose case the Medical Officer is prepared to certify, under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of such physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

Number on register 20

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS

Mental Defect (Feeble-minded and Crippled)	1
Mental Defect (Feeble-minded and Heart Disease)	1

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR

(see note a)

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see page 40)

Disease or defect (1)	Number of defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's scheme (see note b) (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
<i>Skin</i> —Ringworm—scalp—			
(i.) X-Ray treatment	—	—	—
(ii.) Other treatment	4	—	4
Ringworm—body	24	—	24
Scabies	158	—	158
Impetigo	86	—	86
Other skin disease	89	—	89
<i>Minor eye defects</i>	77	1	78
(external and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)			
<i>Minor ear defects</i>	80	—	80
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	617	7	624
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, &c.)			
Total ..	1135	8	1143

The number of children who received treatment at the General School Clinic was 1,661; the total attendances numbered 4,461.

During the past year the Health Nurses paid 617 visits to the homes of children with defects in connection with "following up"—571 first visits, 46 re-visits.

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye

Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

Defect or disease (1)	Number of defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's scheme (see note b) (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
Errors of refraction (including squint)	440	1	441
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	5	—	5
Total.....	445	1	446

	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
No. of children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	389	1	390
(b) Obtained	259	1	260

Dr. Williams continued in charge of the Eye Clinic.

Care is taken to secure that, so far as can be judged without any elaborate system of investigation, only those parents who are not in a position to obtain private attention to their children's eyes are allowed to avail themselves of the facilities provided at the clinic.

During the year 274 new cases were examined. Spectacles were prescribed for 153 of these, the remainder being found to be emmetropic or cases for whom spectacles were of no benefit. 341 children attended for re-examination, and 259 pairs of spectacles (new or replaced) were supplied. The total cost of all the spectacles which were ordered during the year (including those ordered for secondary school children) was £155 9s. 0d., of which the parents were required to pay £151 9s. 4d. The total sum collected during the year (including arrears from previous years) was £147 16s. 2d.

24 new cases were examined and 48 re-examinations were carried out by Dr. Berkson, the consultant ophthalmic surgeon, at the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital.

The following conditions were recorded among the new cases who attended the clinic :

Nystagmus	3
Cataract	1
Corneal nebulae	1

The new cases of strabismus noted during the year were as follows :

Convergent : Right eye 22, left eye 29, alternating 6.

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

Number of defects													
Received operative treatment											Received other forms of treatment (4)	Total number treated (5)	
Under the Authority's scheme in clinic or hospital, (see note b) (1)				By private practitioner or hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme (2)				Total (3)					
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)			(iv)
3	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	4	1	3	1	89	98

- (i) Tonsils only. (ii) Adenoids only. (iii) Tonsils and adenoids.
(iv) Other defects of the nose and throat.

A total of 180 children referred to Mr. Leathart, the consultant aurist and laryngologist, was examined by him. 26 children, after re-examination, were found to be improved or cured. This total includes those children who received operative treatment during the year.

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS (*see notes*)

Under the Authority's Scheme, non-residential treatment at an Orthopædic Clinic

Number of children treated 200

1. *Examinations carried out at the clinic by the orthopædic surgeon.*—At the Clinic Dr. Hartley Martin, the orthopædic surgeon, attended on 34 occasions during the year. The after-care sister made 34 attendances.

115 new cases were dealt with, as compared with 165 in the previous year.

Tuberculous cases	3
Non-tuberculous cases—	
Under school age	52
Of school age	58

113

There were 544 re-examinations made, as compared with 676 in 1940 :—

Tuberculous cases	30
Non-tuberculous cases—	
Under school age	160
Of school age	341
Over school age	13
	<hr/>
	544

The average number of cases seen by the surgeon per session was 19.

In the following table Dr. Hartley Martin sets out a classification of cases dealt with and shows the results of treatment :

Diagnosis	Remaining at end of 1940	1941 New cases			Remaining at end of 1941			Discharges 1941					
		School age			School age			Cured	Relieved	Left district	Refused treatment	Unsuitable	Died
		Under	Of	Over	Under	Of	Over						
Infantile Paralysis	20	...	...	2	...	20	1	..	...	1	...	...	...
Spastic Paralysis	29	1	2	..	7	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rickets	24	4	1	...	8	17	...	3	...	...	1	...	...
Osteitis and Arthritis :													
(a) Tuberculous	17	...	2	1	...	17	1	...	2	...	...	...	..
(b) Non-Tuberculous ..	4	...	2	...	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Deform.....	39	5	1	...	14	20	...	5	1	1	2	...	1
Acquired Deform.....	161	29	33	...	62	130	...	21	...	...	9	...	...
No Apparent Defects..	22	13	19	...	11	15	...	...	...	...	...	27	1
Totals... ..	316	52	60	3	102	245	2	30	3	2	12	27	5

2. *Massage and remedial exercises.*—Massage and remedial exercises as prescribed by Dr. Martin were provided by the Invalid Children's Association. (There is one whole-time and one part-time masseuse on the Association's staff.)

Attendance for massage and remedial exercises were made by clinic cases as follows :

Tuberculous cases	—
Non-tuberculous cases—	
Under school age	366
Of school age	1802
Over school age	—
	<hr/>
	2168

In addition to the above, 115 attendances were made by non-clinic cases (that is to say, cases sent to the Association by orthopaedic surgeons attached to voluntary hospitals, etc.) as follows:—

Under school age	—
Of school age	115
Over school age	—

3. *Surgical apparatus—splints, etc.*—These are provided by the Association, the number of cases dealt with during the past year being as follows :

	Under School Age	Of School Age	Over School Age
Tuberculous cases—			
• Clinic cases	1	10	4
Non-clinic cases	—	3	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	29	99	18
Non-clinic cases	23	72	6

4. *Milk, tonics, convalescence, after-care.*—Most useful work is also done by the Association in providing milk, tonics, etc., for patients for whom these have been prescribed by the orthopaedic surgeon and other doctors, and in following up and helping patients who have passed through the stage of active treatment :

	Under School Age	Of School Age	Over School Age
Children supplied with milk—			
Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	—	6	—
Non-clinic cases	—	1	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	1	14	1
Non-clinic cases	3	32	1

Children supplied with tonics—

Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	2	10	—
Non-clinic cases	—	1	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	17	33	1
Non-clinic cases	6	12	1

Children sent to Convalescent Homes and Country Hospitals—

Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	1	3	—
Non-clinic cases	1	1	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	24	26	—
Non-clinic cases	14	15	1

5. *Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital.*—At this institution children suffering from orthopaedic defects of tuberculous origin are treated. Many are cases who have passed through a course of treatment at Leasowe Hospital, or are awaiting admission to that institution.

6. *Treatment by Ultra-Violet Rays.*—Treatment of rickets and other deforming conditions is provided. Fuller details of the work carried out at the Clinics and by the Invalid Children's Association are given below,

Health of school children

GROUP V.—TREATMENT BY ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS.

At the North Health Clinic a total of 19 children of school age made 176 attendances during the year :

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year
Debility	7	—	2
Tuberculosis	6	—	1
Anaemia	1	—	1
Eczema	—	—	—
Asthma	—	—	—
Bronchitis	3	—	1
Malnutrition	2	—	1
	19	—	6
	—	—	—

At the South Health Clinic a total of 5 children of school age made 23 attendances during the year :

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year
Debility	1	—	1
Tuberculosis	—	1	—
Asthma	1	—	1
Other conditions	2	—	2
	4	1	4
	—	—	—

At the Invalid Children's Association premises, 29 children of school age made 446 attendances during the year :

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year
Debility	3	3	14
Tuberculosis	2	1	4
Rickets	—	—	2
	5	4	20
	—	—	—

In addition, 337 attendances were made by children below and above school age.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of children who were:—		
(i) Inspected by the Dentist:		
Routine age groups—		
	aged 5	569
	aged 6	913
	aged 7	943
	aged 8	1009
	aged 9	991
	aged 10	1050
	aged 11	1094
	aged 12	1005
	aged 13	883
	aged 14	62
		<hr/>
		8519
		<hr/>
(b) Specials (see note e)		—
		<hr/>
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)		8519
		<hr/>
(2) Number found to require treatment		5442
(3) Number actually treated		4729
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment		5071
(5) Half-days devoted to:—		
Inspection	121	
Treatment	968	
	Total	<hr/> 1089
(6) Fillings (see note f):—		
Permanent Teeth	2568	
Temporary Teeth	42	
	Total	<hr/> 2610
(7) Extractions:—		
Permanent Teeth	1924	
Temporary Teeth	4798	
	Total	<hr/> 6722
(8) Administrations for general anaesthetic for extractions.....		2188
(9) Other Operations:—		
Permanent Teeth	1538	
Temporary Teeth	119	
	Total	<hr/> 1657

Cleanliness of teeth.—The children examined were classified according to cleanliness of teeth as follows :

Clean	3795
Fairly clean	3813
Dirty	911
	<hr/>
	8519
	<hr/>

Condition of gums.—The following figures show the condition of the gums of the children examined :

Gums healthy	6177
Gums inflamed	1387
Gums septic	955
	<hr/>
	8519
	<hr/>

Condition of bite.—This was found to be as set out below :

Bite good	4855
Bite fair	3230
Bite bad	434
	<hr/>
	8519
	<hr/>

Notices were sent to the parents of the 5,442 children found to require dental treatment, with the following results:—

Refused to have treatment done or did not reply ...	613
Stated that treatment would be obtained privately ...	674
Requested treatment at the Dental Clinic	4155
	<hr/>
	5442
	<hr/>

Of the 4,155 children for whom treatment at the clinic was requested :

2779	were treated before the end of the year
1360	did not attend when sent for
16	were awaiting treatment at the end of the year
<hr/>	
4155	

The total number of children treated at the clinic during 1941 was :

Following on 1940 inspections	142
Following on 1941 inspections	2779
Brought by parents on their own initiative	1445
Special cases from Claughton Road School	1
	<hr/>
	4367
	<hr/>

4,037 treatments were completed during the year.

2,437 parents paid 1s. each and 35 parents 6d. each for treatment for their children, the total amount paid being £122 14s. 6d. 2,076 children were treated free of charge.

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

- (i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the Health Nurses 14
- (ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by Health Nurses 41019
- (iii) Number of *individual* children found unclean (*see note g*) 2141
- (iv) Number of *individual* children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921 —
- (v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—
 - (a) Under the Education Act, 1921 —
 - (b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws —

The Health Nurses paid 99 visits to the homes of children in regard to uncleanliness and verminous conditions (78 first visits, 21 re-visits).

NOTES ON TABLES (pages 33-40)

(a) The Table deals with all defects treated during the year, however they were brought to the Authority's notice, i.e., whether by routine inspection, special inspection, or otherwise, during the year in question or previously.

(b) This heading includes all cases that received treatment under definite arrangements or agreements for treatment made by the Local Education Authority and sanctioned by the Board of Education under Section 80 of the Education Act, 1921. Cases which, after being recommended for treatment or advised to obtain it, actually received treatment by private practitioners, or by means of direct application to hospitals, or by the use of hospital tickets supplied by private persons, etc., are entered under other headings.

(c) Postural defects which received non-residential treatment otherwise than at an orthopædic clinic are not recorded in this Table.

(d) A child may be recorded in more than one category and therefore the total number of children treated will not necessarily be the same as the sum of the figures in the separate categories.

(e) The heading "Specials" in this Table relates to all children inspected by the School Dentist otherwise than in the course of the routine inspection of children in one of the age groups covered by the Authority's approved scheme, namely, to children specially selected by him, or referred by Medical Officers, Parents, Teachers, etc., on account of urgency.

(f) Temporary fillings, whether in permanent or temporary teeth, are recorded as other operations.

- (g) (i) All cases of uncleanliness, however slight, are recorded.
- (ii) The return relates to individual children and not to instances of uncleanliness.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The powers and duties of local education authorities with regard to medical inspection and treatment in secondary schools and continuation schools are set out in Section 80 of the Education Act, 1921.

There are no continuation schools provided by the local education authority.

MEDICAL INSPECTION**A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS**

Number of Inspections	1456
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B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	31
In schools	—
In clinics	31
Number of Re-Inspections	208
In schools	194
In clinics	14

Total	<u>239</u>
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The following schools were inspected, the totals and numbers found defective being shown :

	No. Inspected	No. found defective*
Girls' Secondary School	384	81
Rock Ferry High School	233	53
Park High School	272	38
The Birkenhead Institute	312	39
The Convent Secondary School	255	48
	<u>1456</u>	<u>259</u>

Excluding those with defective teeth and defects of nutrition.

Included in the total are 363 who were inspected as entrants to these schools.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

Defect or disease (1)	Routine Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin: Scabies.....	8	—	5	—
other diseases (non-tuberculous)	10	6	4	—
Eye: blepharitis	1	—	1	—
other conditions (excluding defective vision and squint).....	3	1	1	—
defective vision (excluding squint)	121	59	—	—
squint	—	—	—	—
Ear: otitis media.....	2	—	—	—
defective hearing	2	2	—	—
other ear diseases	—	2	4	—
Nose and throat: chronic tonsillitis only... ..	16	27	—	—
adenoids only	—	—	—	—
other conditions	7	8	1	—
Enlarged cervical glands (non tuberculous) ...	3	10	1	—
Defective speech	—	4	—	—
Heart and circulation :				
Functional	8	43	2	—
Organic	—	1	—	—
Anæmia	12	10	—	—
Lungs—bronchitis	2	1	—	—
other non-tuberculous diseases.....	5	7	—	—
tuberculosis—non-pulmonary	—	1	—	—
Nervous system—chorea.....	—	1	—	—
Deformities: spinal curvature.....	—	—	—	—
rickets.....	1	—	—	—
other forms	28	48	1	—
Other defects and diseases (excluding defects of nutrition, uncleanness and dental diseases) ...	30	22	11	—
Total number of defects	259	253	31	—

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR

TREATMENT TABLES

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS

Defect or disease.	Number of defects treated or under treatment during the year, under the Authority's scheme.
Skin: Scabies.....	4
other skin diseases.....	2
Minor eye defects.....	1
Minor ear defects	2
Nose and throat:	
other conditions	2
Miscellaneous (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, etc.)	7
Total	18

18 children made 30 attendances for treatment during the year.

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects)

Defect or disease (1)	No. of defects dealt with			
	Under the Authority's scheme (2)	By private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme (3)	Otherwise (4)	Total (5)
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	70	—	—	70
Total.....	70	—	—	70

total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed under the Authority's scheme 69

total number of children who obtained or received spectacles under the Authority's scheme 42

83 children were submitted to refraction at the Eye Clinic.

33 new cases were examined. Spectacles were prescribed for 19 of them, the remainder being found to be emmetropic or cases for whom spectacles were of no benefit. 50 children attended for re-examination.

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

number of children who received treatment other than by operation ... 1

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

	Under the Authority's Scheme non-residential treatment at an orthopædic clinic.
number of children treated	14

DENTAL TREATMENT

Treated	181
Attendances made by children for treatment	342
Fillings—Permanent Teeth	285
Temporary Teeth	—
Extractions—Permanent Teeth	118
Temporary Teeth	19
Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions	—
Other Operations—Permanent Teeth	75
	30

MISCELLANEOUS

Children and Young Persons Act, 1933.—7 children summoned to appear before Police Courts were examined in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Employment of Children Byelaws.—52 children were medically examined as to fitness for work under these byelaws. Certificates were granted in all cases.

Provision of Meals.—An average number of 108 children received meals each day, the total number of meals provided during the year being 26,936. Meals were supplied five days per week, with the exception of Bank and Public Holidays.

Past Infectious Diseases.—Enquiry was made at each routine medical inspection as to the infectious diseases from which the children might have suffered.

(1) Children aged 3—7

	No. of Cases	Percentage
No Infectious Disease	289	19.16
Measles	529	35.08
Whooping Cough	751	49.80
Scarlet Fever	80	5.31
Diphtheria	64	4.24
Chicken Pox	292	19.36
Mumps	210	13.93

(2) Children aged 8—14

	No. of Cases	Percentage
No Infectious Disease	149	4.76
Measles	2775	88.78
Whooping Cough	1853	59.26
Scarlet Fever	287	9.18
Diphtheria	409	13.80
Chicken Pox	1630	52.13
Mumps	1048	33.51

Note.—The same child may have had more than one of these diseases

Co-operation of Parents.—Parents attended at the examination of 2,425 (52.32%) of the 4,635 children dealt with at routine inspections.

Group	Parents Present
Entrants	84.48%
2nd age group	72.99%
3rd age group	32.89%
4th age group	19.04%

Vaccination.—In the ordinary inspections children were examined as to vaccination marks. Of the 4,635 children examined

1707 (36.83%)	showed no marks.
2183 (47.10%)	showed one mark.
232 (5.00%)	showed two marks.
77 (1.66%)	showed three marks.
436 (9.41%)	showed four or more marks.

Health of school children

Height and weight.—Below is set out the average heights and weights (measured without footwear) of children comprising the groups examined during the course of routine inspections, together with the standard deviations :

Group	Height							
	Boys				Girls			
	No.	Ft.	Ins.	S.D. Ins.	No.	Ft.	Ins.	S.D. Ins.
Entrants	764	3	9·76	2·78	671	3	9·62	3·00
2nd Age Group	299	4	3·68	2·86	260	4	3·40	2·59
3rd Age Group	619	4	10·52	3·24	706	4	11·46	3·46
4th Age Group	470	5	1·58	3·26	421	5	2·08	3·16

Group	Weight							
	Boys				Girls			
	No.	St.	Lbs.	S.D. Lbs.	No.	St.	Lbs.	S.D. Lbs.
Entrants	760	3	4·96	5·98	669	3	3·26	5·56
2nd Age Group	306	4	3·20	6·90	272	4	0·94	6·87
3rd Age Group	653	5	11·74	13·10	695	6	1·26	15·37
4th Age Group	474	6	8·2	16·03	421	6	13·6	15·9

